

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCCT-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /065 W
----- 007255

P 071833Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4733

INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO VIA POUCH

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT MX PINS

SUBJECT: AND NOW TERRORISM AGAIN

1. SEVERAL ARMED MEN AND A WOMAN, LEAVING "23 OF SEPTEMBER COMMUNIST LEAGUE" FLYERS ON MAY 6 SHOT AND KILLED SIX PERSONAL BODYGUARDS OF MARIO VAZQUEZ ARANA, A PROMINENT BUSINESSMAN AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE MEXICAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE, IN A MEXICO CITY SUBURB. AS THEY LEFT THE RESTAURANT WHERE THE ATTACK OCCURRED, THEY SHOT AND SERIOUSLY WOUNDED TWO GUARDS AT A BRANCH OF THE SECRETARIAT OF TREASURY. THE TERRORISTS TOOK THE WEAPONS OF THE PERSONS SHOT BEFORE FLEEING THE SCENE.

2. THE TERRORIST ATTACK WAS THE FIRST OF THIS KIND SINCE LAST AUGUST 12, WHEN TERRORISTS IDENTIFIED BY POLICE AS 23 SEPTEMBER MEMBERS KILLED FIVE PERSONS. THE FLYERS LEFT MAY 6 REFERRED TO THE DEATH LAST JUNE OF TERESA HERNANDEZ, WHO DIED IN A SHOOTOUT WITH POLICE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY CAMPUS.

3. MEXICAN REACTION TO THIS INCIDENT WAS QUICK AND PREDICTABLE. IN THE CONGRESS, FEDERAL DEPUTY FROM TABASCO FELICIANO CALZADA SAID THE ATTACK "PERHAPS HAD A FOREIGN ORIGIN", BECAUSE "IT'S INCONCEIVABLE THAT

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GENUINE MEXICANS SHOULD ACT IN THIS WAY". HE WAS SUP-

PORTED BY SENATOR SALVADOR GAMIZ FERNANDEZ, WHO SOUNDED THE SAME THEME. FEDERAL DISTRICT REGENT OCTAVIO SENTIES WENT EVEN FURTHER, ASSERTING THAT THE AUTHORS OF THE TERRORIST ACT "ARE MANIPULATED AND RECEIVE HELP FROM ABROAD". LIKE CALZADA, SENTIES SAID THE ACTS "DID NOT CORRESPOND TO THE ATTITUDE OF THE MEXICAN, WHO HAS NEVER BEEN CUNNING AND DOES NOT ACT IN SECRECY, NOT EVEN IN THE SHADOWS". ALL THREE VIEWED THE ATTACK AS AN ACT OF PROVOCATION DESIGNED TO PROVOKE A REPRESSIVE "WITCH HUNT".

4. THIS NEW OUTBREAK OF TERRORIST VIOLENCE COMES AT A MOMENT WHEN MEXICANS WERE ALREADY TENSE OVER LAND INVASIONS, PUBLIC-PRIVATE SECTOR CONFRONTATION, LABOR INSURGENCY, STUDENT VIOLENCE AND DEVALUATION RUMORS. WE ARE IN FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF "DESTABILIZATION" RHETORIC AS A RESULT.
JOVA

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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